

city. He spoke specifically about the materials missing from Russian nuclear facilities. He said, "There is sufficient material unaccounted for, so that it would be possible for those with know-how to construct a nuclear weapon." His assessment is that "It may be a only a matter of time before Al Qaeda or another group attempts to use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons."

Defense Intelligence Agency Director Jacoby concurred, saying, "We judge terrorist groups, particularly Al Qaeda, remain interested in chemical, biological radiological and nuclear weapons."

Admiral James Loy, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security warned, "Al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups have demonstrated an operational capability to conduct dramatic, mass-casualty attacks against both hard and soft targets inside the United States and abroad . . . The most severe threats revolve around al-Qaeda and its affiliates' long-standing intent to develop, procure, or acquire chemical, biological, radiological, and even nuclear, weapons for mass-casualty attacks."

CIA Director Porter Goss also said that we've created a breeding ground for terrorists in Iraq and a cause worldwide for the continuing recruitment of anti-American extremists.

His assessment was clear. "The Iraq conflict, while not a cause of extremism, has become a cause for extremists . . . Islamic extremists are exploiting the Iraqi conflict to recruit new anti-U.S. jihadists . . . These jihadists who survive will leave Iraq experienced in and focused on acts of urban terrorism. They represent a potential pool of contacts to build transnational terrorist cells, groups, and networks in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other countries."

American forces served bravely and with great honor in Iraq. But the war in Iraq has made it more likely—not less likely—that we will face terrorist attacks in American cities, and not just the streets of Baghdad. The war has clearly made us less safe, and less secure.

It has significantly increased the challenges to our intelligence community. And it underscores the vital need to have a Director of National Intelligence who understands that it is al-Qaida not Iraq—that has always been and remains the greatest threat to our national security.

In my view, we have no higher priority than to do everything we possibly can to track down and secure the nuclear materials missing from Russian stockpiles or from any other source that might be available to terrorists. The nuclear clock is ticking, and we are living on borrowed time.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on June 2, 1955, the Governors of six New

England States recognized the importance of higher education to the region and entered into the New England Higher Education Compact to share the region's higher education resources and to cooperate in meeting the needs of the New England workforce.

The original signers of the New England Higher Education Compact were Governor Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut, Governor Edmund Muskie of Maine, Governor Christian Herter of Massachusetts, Governor Lane Dwinell of New Hampshire, Governor Dennis J. Roberts of Rhode Island and Governor Joseph B. Johnson of Vermont.

The legislatures of the six States ratified the compact and the compact was approved by the United States Congress on August 30, 1954, and the New England Board of Higher Education was created as the interstate agency to carry out the mission of the compact.

In 1957, the New England Board of Higher Education established what has become its flagship program, the New England Regional Student Program, to enable New England residents to pay reduced tuition at out-of-State public colleges and universities in the region when they enroll in degree programs not offered by their home State.

The six New England States agreed in the compact to provide needed, acceptable, efficient educational resources and facilities to meet the needs of the New England workforce in the fields of medicine, public health, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and other fields of professional and graduate training. Access and affordability have become the hallmark of the Regional Student Program of the New England Board of Higher Education.

The New England Board of Higher Education has, over the course of the last 50 years, saved New England students and their families millions of dollars in annual tuition bills. The New England Board of Higher Education provides professional development training to prepare the region's high school teachers and college faculty to teach in the fields of math, science and technology for thousands of New England's middle, high school and college students.

The Excellence Through Diversity program of the New England Board of Higher Education provides an academic support network to inspire, inform and motivate underrepresented high school students to apply to college, performs research relating to underrepresented groups enrolled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs in New England, and supports efforts to increase the number of minority doctoral scholars at New England colleges and universities.

Connection: The Journal of the New England Board of Higher Education is America's only regional magazine on higher education and economic development that provides a key policy forum for New England educators, busi-

ness leaders, and policymakers to share best practices and current views on higher education and economic development.

For the past 50 years, hundreds of New England's leading citizens in government, education, and business have served as delegates to the New England Board of Higher Education to encourage regional cooperation, increase educational opportunities for residents of the region, and strengthen the relationship between higher education and the region's economy.

We join to congratulate the New England Board of Higher Education on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and commend the New England Board of Higher Education for its service to New England residents and its commitment to excellence in higher education, and in particular, its distinguished Board of Delegates led by the Honorable Louis D'Allesandro of New Hampshire and its president and CEO, Dr. Evan S. Dobelle of Massachusetts.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

In September of 2004, two transgender women were attacked by a group of six or seven teenagers in Washington, DC. One of the women, Kerri Kellerman, suffered two broken ribs, a fractured skull, and a facial wound requiring 40 stitches after being beaten with a brick and a metal padlock. The other woman, a 25-year-old named Jaimie Fischer, reports that the assailants yelled slurs about the victim's sexual orientation during the attack.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### ETHA AND DRUG-RESISTANT HIV STRAINS

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I discuss a rare strain of HIV that is highly resistant to most antiretroviral drugs and causes a rapid onset of AIDS that was recently discovered in a patient in New York City. The strain, identified as 3-DCR HIV, is resistant to 3 of the 4 classes of antiretroviral drugs, which means that 19 of the 20 available antiretroviral drug combinations